

Top 5 on Engaging Men in Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

At Futures Without Violence, we believe that men have a role to play in the movement to end violence against women and girls. Since 2001, FUTURES has worked actively to engage men and boys through programs like Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM).

In 2007, FUTURES conducted a national poll of men regarding their attitudes and beliefs about violence against women in the United States¹. What we found supports our conviction – that if men are supported as role models, they will use their influence as fathers, educators, coaches and policymakers to stand up for respect and non-violence in their communities.

1) Most men believe that violence against women is wrong.

- In a national poll, two-thirds of men reported that they believe domestic violence and sexual assault are fairly or very common in the United States.
- 88% of men believe that society should do more to promote respect for women and girls.

2) Men recognize the role that they can play to address the problem of violence against women and girls.

- Over half of men polled (55%) believe that they can personally make some difference in preventing domestic violence and sexual assault.

3) Men are looking for ways to get involved to prevent violence against women, but many don't know how.

- When asked why they hadn't gotten involved in the past, many men responded simply that they had never been asked to help.

4) Men are willing to take the time to get involved in a variety of ways to address the problem of domestic violence and sexual assault.

- 70% of men are willing to make time to talk to young people about healthy, violence-free relationships and two-thirds would sign a petition or contact elected officials to urge them to strengthen laws against domestic violence.

5) Many men are already taking action to prevent violence against women by talking to young people about healthy, violence-free relationships.

- 68% of fathers have talked to their sons about the importance of healthy, violence-free relationships, and 63% of fathers have talked to their daughters.

1. *Father's Day Poll*. 2007. Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc. Available at <http://aboutus.verizonwireless.com/communityservice/FathersDayPoll.pdf>.